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Message Text

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54
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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P R 301906Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9963
INFO AMCONSUL CALI
AMCONSUL MEDELLIN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR CO VE PN
SUBJ: SUMMIT MEETING IN SANTA MARTA: ACCORD ON PANAMA CANAL ISSUE

1. AT CONCLUSION JULY 29 OF SUMMIT MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PEREZ OF VENEZUELA, CHIEF OF STATE TORRIJOS OF PANAMA AND PRESIDENT LOPEZ OF COLOMBIA, THREE DECLARATIONS WERE ISSUED. THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE WAS TREATED IN A SO-CALLED DECLARATION OF SANTA MARTA.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT STATEMENT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW EXPRESSES THE INTENTION OF THE LEADERS TO REQUEST PRESIDENT FORD TO CONSENT TO THE PUBLISHING OF THE MARCH 24, 1975 LETTER SENT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA ON THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE AND THE REPLIES OF PRESIDENT FORD TO THE THREE LEADERS.

3. A SUMMARY OF THE DECLARATION OF SANTA MARTA FOLLOWS: THE PREAMBLE SAYS THAT THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THE DECLARATION OF AYACUCHO OF DECEMBER 9, 1974 WHICH CALLED FOR THE URGENT TERMIN-ATION OF COLONIALISM IN LATIN AMERICA INCLUDING THE PANAMA
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CANAL; THE UNANIMOUS OAS APPROVAL OF A MAY 15, 1975 RESOLUTION

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NOTING SATISFACTION AT THE FEBRUARY 7, 1974 KISSINGER-TACK AGREEME Z ON EIGHT POINTS INCLUDING ONE STATING THAT THE TERRITORY OF PANAMA, OF WHICH THE CANAL IS A PART, WOULD BE RETURNED PROMPTLY TO THE JURISDICTION OF PANAMA AND THAT THE LATTER WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INTEROCEAN CANAL UPON COMPLETING A NEW AGREEMENT; THAT THE OAS IN THE SAME RESOLUTION RECOGNIZED THE POSITIVE EFFORTS TAKEN BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO FIND A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE PANAMA QUESTION; THAT PANAMA IN ITS STRUGGLE HAS THE SUPPORT OF ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AS MANIFESTED BY THE COLLECTIVE SUPPORT ASSURING THE ELECTION OF PANAMA BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL; THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS HAS STATED THAT THE PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE CANAL QUESTION IS OF PRIORITY IMPORTANCE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LATIN AMERICA-US RELATIONS.

4. IN THE DECLARATION THE COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN PRESIDENTS (A) RATIFIED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE JUST ASPIRATIONS OF PANAMA AND EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRES THAT THE US-PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS TERMINATE IN A JUST AND EQUITABLE SOLUTION THAT ASSURES PANAMA THE EXERCISE OF ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS IN THE PART OF ITS TERRITORY CALLED THE CANAL ZONE; (B) REITERATED THEIR PREOCCUPATION OVER THE SLOWNESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH AFTER 11 YEARS CONTINUE TO HAVE EXCESSIVE OBSTACLES AS EVIDENCED BY THE 4-MONTH ABSENCE FROM THE NEGOTIATING TABLE OF ONE OF THE PARTIES; (C) PROPOSED TO SOLICIT PRESIDENT FORD'S CONSENT TO PUBLISH THE LETTER OF MARCH 25, 1975 SENT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA AND COSTA RICA (ON THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE) AND THE REPLIES OF PRESIDENT FORD; (D) CONSIDERED OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS THE CONGRESS PERSEVERE IN A SEARCH FOR A PROMPT AND JUST SOLUTION TO THE PANAMA CANAL QUESTION BECAUSE IT AFFECTS NOT ONLY PANAMA BUT ALL OF LATIN AMERICA; (E) NOTED AS A POSITIVE STEP THE DECLARATION OF SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER OF JULY 16, 1975 IN MINNEAPOLIS IN WHICH HE SAID THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE A TREATY WITH PANAMA; (F) MADE A POINT OF RECORD THAT PANAMA IN ITS NEGOTIATIONS HAS NEVER PRETENDED NOT TO UNDERSTAND THE CONDITIONS OF CONSERVATION, MAINTENANCE, SECURITY AND EFFICIENCY THAT SUCH AN IMPORTANT INTEROCEANIC ROUTE REQUIRES, NOR HAS IT OVERLOOKED THE INTEREST OF THE USERS IN THIS ROUTE AS AN IMPORTANT MEANS
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OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO OCEANS; AND FINALLY (G) EXPRESSED PLEASURE WITH THE DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY THAT PANAMA HAS RECEIVED FROM ALL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND PROPOSED TO COMMEMORATE THE 150TH MEETING OF THE PANAMA CONGRESS CONVENED BY SIMON BOLIVAR BY INVITING THE HEADS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN STATES TO A MEETING IN PANAMA CITY AND TO ERECT A MONUMENT TO THE HISTORIC EVENT.
VAKY

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